27th February 1928]

Retrenchment in the Forest Department.

* 1519 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(*a*) to place before the House a statement showing the reduction in the higher and lower services of the Forest Department and the increase in the higher and lower services of the Revenue Department, consequent on the transfer of several forest areas to panchayats; and

(*b*) to state—

(1) whether the Government propose to have a special staff in the Revenue Department to supervise the work of the forest panchayats,

(2) whether it is proposed to have a separate Member on the Revenue Board for the purpose, and, if so, for what reasons, and

(3) whether it is a fact that at least one Member of the Revenue Board has not, on the average, more than one or two hours' work a day and does not stay in office while in Madras or on tour for more than one or two hours a day on the average, and if so, whether the Government contemplate the reduction of one Member of the Board and the corresponding establishment in the Board?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) (1) As regards the reduction in the higher services of the Forest department the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers given on 26th August 1927, to clauses (*f*) and (*g*) of his question No. 164. In the lower services of the Forest department the permanent cadre of rangers has been reduced by 24. No report has yet been received from the Chief Conservator regarding the reduction in the other classes of subordinates. The following is the additional temporary staff now employed in the Revenue department for organizing and supervising the Forest panchayats:—

(1) One Forest Panchayat Officer on Rs. 800—850.
(2) Twenty-five Special Deputy Tahsildars on Rs. 150—200.
(3) One clerk on Rs. 65—85.
(4) One clerk on Rs. 40—55 plus Rs. 10.
(5) One steno-typist on Rs. 40—65 plus Rs. 35.
(6) One attender on Rs. 15—20.
(7) Three peons on Rs. 15—20.
(8) Twenty-five peons on Rs. 12—18.

(*b*) (2) No.

(3) The fact is not as the hon. Member suggests.

Corporation of Madras

Alleged irregularities in city municipal elections in September 1927.

* 1520 Q.—BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has received complaints from the candidates and voters of the divisions in which the election was held on 17th September 1927 and 19th September 1927 protesting against the action of the Commissioner in excluding as many as 70 voters from voting and other irregularities in the conduct of the election;